

Neisseria gonorrhoeae gradient strip AST service now available

For STI providers and affiliated laboratories when gonococcal treatment failure is suspected

Through CDC's AR Lab Network, the Maryland Public Health Laboratory offers nationwide gradient strip method antimicrobial susceptibility testing (AST)—at no cost—to assist in care of patients with potentially drug-resistant gonorrhea infections. The Maryland lab provides CLIA-compliant susceptibility testing for azithromycin, cefixime, and ceftriaxone, with results expected within 10 days of receipt.



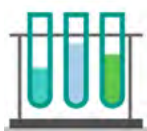
PROVIDERS

with patients who may have antibiotic-resistant *N. gonorrhoeae*:

If patients persistently test positive for *N. gonorrhoeae* (gonococcus or GC) after treatment (with or without symptoms) and reinfection has been ruled out, **please consider sending their specimen or isolate for susceptibility testing.** Data from this testing helps CDC monitor for new types of resistance and can provide information for treatment decisions.

Consult your public health department and CDC, as needed, and do one of the following:

- › **Submit a fresh clinical specimen** to your local laboratory that performs GC culture, and **ask them to save an isolate** for shipment to Maryland Public Health Laboratory (MDPHL).
- › **Ask the laboratory** that has already isolated GC from your patient **to ship the isolate to MDPHL** for further testing.
- › If a local laboratory is **not available** to perform GC culture, **please email** MDPHL.arln@maryland.gov to plan specimen collection and shipment for GC culture.



LABORATORIES

that may isolate antibiotic-resistant *N. gonorrhoeae* in culture:

Please save and be prepared to send isolates of interest to MDPHL for rapid AST by gradient strip method and to receive CLIA-compliant results for sharing with your providers. Pure frozen or lyophilized isolates, as well as culture growth on media may be sent for testing.

MDPHL

MARYLAND PUBLIC HEALTH LAB

provides instructions, specimen collection materials, and free shipping

Further information is available at: <https://health.maryland.gov/laboratories/Pages/ARLNHome.aspx>

Please follow your local/state requirements for notification of health department or state public health laboratory when preparing shipment to Maryland.

For more information on CDC's AR Lab Network, visit:
www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/laboratories.html



U.S. Department of
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Prevention and Control